

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069820 TOSEC 030092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE SITREP NUMBER 16

1. TACTICAL SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE WITH KATANGANS ADVANCING TOWARDS KOLWEZI, CONTINUING REPORTS OF POOR PERFORMANCE BY ZAIRIAN TROOPS, AND ONLY UNIMPRESSIVE PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR DEFENSE OF KOLWEZI. MOBUTU HAS MADE COMMAND CHANGES IN EFFORT TO BOLSTER ARMY PERFORMANCE.

2. INTELLIGENCE - A NUMBER OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ATTEST TO LOW MORALE, CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY OF ZAIRIAN MILITARY AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN SHABA; ZAIRIAN MILITARY SOURCE REPORTED THAT: UNITS NOW AT KAMINA BASE WERE INCAPABLE OF ENSURING ITS DEFENSE; THAT SOLDIERS WHO RETREATED FROM SANDOA WERE CAUSING PANIC IN KAMINA; AND THAT INVADERS COULD QUICKLY OCCUPY TENKE AND FUNGURUME; SITES OF LARGE FUTURE COPPER PROJECT IN WHICH US HAS INTEREST AND KEY RAIL JUNCTIONS EAST OF
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KOLWEZI (THIS WOULD CUT RAIL LINK NORTHWARD TOWARD KAMINA). ANOTHER SOURCE CLAIMS THAT INVADERS INTEND TO INSTALL THEIR GOVERNMENT IN KAPANGA ON APRIL 1 AND TO LAUNCH MAJOR OFFENSIVE THE SAME DAY.

3. NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT: FONAFFAIRS COMMISSIONER

GARBA WILL ARRIVE KINSHASA MARCH 30 IN SPECIAL AIRPLANE.
ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR LAGOS WAS INFORMED BY NIGERIAN
FONOFFICE THAT GARBA'S VISIT MAY INVOLVE SHUTTLE
OPERATION LUANDA-KINSHASA IN PURSUIT MEDIATION EFFORT.

4. AMCIT EVACUATION: MORRISSON-KNUDSEN EVACUATED 43
AMCITS FROM KOLWEZI TODAY. OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS
BEGINNING TO LEAVE. THERE ARE NO PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS IN KOLWEZI.

5.. ITALIAN SPARE PARTS FOR MACCHI JETS: WE HAVE
JUST LEARNED THAT ZAIRIANS HAVE PAID LONG OUTSTANDING
BILL (OVER \$750,000) FOR SPARE PARTS FOR MACCHI
JET AIRCRAFT AND PLACED ADDITIONAL \$1.5 MILLION SPARE
PART ORDER. WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF ITALIANS WILL SEND
TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TEAM TO ZAIRE AS SUGGESTED
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.
CHRISTOPHER

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